

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:190

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013

ELECTORAL REFORMS

Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring in major electoral reforms to ensure decriminalization of politics;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction;
- (c) whether the Law Commission has been entrusted to give concrete suggestions in this regard and if so, the details and the current status thereof;
- (d) whether the Supreme Court has recently sought from the Government the points of reference made to `Law Commission` on plausible changes in legislation to decriminalize politics;and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the response furnished by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL S1BAL)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in replies to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 190 for 18.12.2013

(a) to (c): The Government is committed to bring forward a purposive agenda for electoral reforms which, inter alia, includes de-criminalisation of politics. With this end in view, the issue of electoral reforms in its entirety has been referred to the Law Commission of India with a request to consider the issue after taking into consideration the reports of various committees in the past, views of the Election Commission and other stake holders and suggest comprehensive measures for changes in the law. The Law Commission has been requested to give concrete suggestions at the earliest. The Law Commission is yet to submit its report. On receipt of the recommendations of the Law Commission, matter will be further examined in consultation with the stake holders.

(d) and (e): During the course of the hearing in the matter of Public Interest Foundation vs. Union of India (Writ Petition (Civil) No. 536 of 2011), the Government of India has submitted before the Hon`ble Supreme Court that for the purpose of de-criminalisation of politics and electoral reforms, the matter has been referred to the Law Commission of India for consideration and examination. The Hon`ble Supreme Court vide its Order dated 25 November, 2011 allowed to place on record the copy of the reference made by the Government of India to the Law Commission. The Government of India has filed an additional Affidavit placing on record copy of the reference made by it to the Law Commission of India.